

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00085 051327Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5011

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0085

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER TO IRAN

1. CHECKED JANUARY 5 WITH UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, URI LUBRANI, ABOUT REPORTED SECRET VISIT TO TEHRAN OF ISRAELI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, YIGAL ALLON. LUBRANI CONFIRMED VISIT, EMPHASIZED THE SECRECY THEREOF, AND SAID HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO GIVE ME SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS SINCE HE DID NOT WANT TO RUN THE RISK OF PRE-EMPTING REPORT WHICH ALLON WILL GIVE YOU AT LUNCH ON TUESDAY. ALLON ARRIVED HERE EVENING OF DECEMBER 31, SPENDING 24 HOURS IN TOWN. HE HAD A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH SHAH (NO ONE ELSE PRESENT), AND MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI, AND CHIEF OF SAVAK, GENERAL NASSIRI. THIS WAS ALLON'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO TEHRAN, AND LUBRANI FELLS THAT IT DID MUCH TO GIVE ALLON A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF LUBRANI'S PROBLEMS HERE. ALSO, THEY BOTH WERE PERSUADED THAT IT HAD ASSISTED IN IMPROVING IRANIAN/ISRAELI RELATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING. APPARENTLY ALLON WAS QUITE TAKEN WITH THE SHAH. REGARDING THE VISIT HERE OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD, LUBRANI IS CONVINCED THAT HE DID NOT "CUT MUCH ICE" WITH THE IRANIANS AND THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN KEEPING THEIR LINES OPEN TO SYRIA MORE AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO IRAQ THAN FOR ANY OTHER SPECIFIC REASON.

HELMS

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